



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5178**

*January Session, 2003*

**AN ACT EXTENDING HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO  
REMARRIED SURVIVING SPOUSES OF POLICE OFFICERS AND  
FIREFIGHTERS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 5-259 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
3 *passage*):

4 (a) The Comptroller, with the approval of the Attorney General and  
5 of the Insurance Commissioner, shall arrange and procure a group  
6 hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance plan or plans for  
7 (1) state employees, (2) members of the General Assembly who elect  
8 coverage under such plan or plans, (3) participants in an alternate  
9 retirement program who meet the service requirements of section  
10 5-162 or subsection (a) of section 5-166, (4) anyone receiving benefits  
11 under section 5-144 or from any state-sponsored retirement system,  
12 except the teachers' retirement system and the municipal employees  
13 retirement system, (5) judges of probate and Probate Court employees,  
14 (6) the surviving spouse [, until remarriage,] and any dependent  
15 children until they reach the age of eighteen, of a state police officer, a  
16 member of an organized local police department, a firefighter or a  
17 constable who performs criminal law enforcement duties who dies  
18 before, on or after the effective date of this section as the result of  
19 injuries received while acting within the scope of such officer's or

20 firefighter's or constable's employment and not as the result of illness  
21 or natural causes, and whose surviving spouse and dependent  
22 children are not otherwise eligible for a group hospitalization and  
23 medical and surgical insurance plan, (7) employees of the Capital City  
24 Economic Development Authority established by section 32-601, and  
25 (8) the surviving spouse and dependent children of any employee of a  
26 municipality who dies on or after October 1, 2000, as the result of  
27 injuries received while acting within the scope of such employee's  
28 employment and not as the result of illness or natural causes, and  
29 whose surviving spouse and dependent children are not otherwise  
30 eligible for a group hospitalization and medical and surgical insurance  
31 plan. For purposes of this subdivision, "employee" means any regular  
32 employee or elective officer receiving pay from a municipality, [and]  
33 "municipality" means any town, city, borough, school district, taxing  
34 district, fire district, district department of health, probate district,  
35 housing authority, regional work force development board established  
36 under section 31-3k, flood commission or authority established by  
37 special act or regional planning agency. For purposes of subdivision  
38 (6) of this subsection, "firefighter" means any person who is regularly  
39 employed and paid by any municipality for the purpose of performing  
40 firefighting duties for a municipality on average of not less than thirty-  
41 five hours per week. The minimum benefits to be provided by such  
42 plan or plans shall be substantially equal in value to the benefits  
43 [which] that each such employee or member of the General Assembly  
44 could secure in such plan or plans on an individual basis on the  
45 preceding first day of July. The state shall pay for each such employee  
46 and each member of the General Assembly covered by such plan or  
47 plans the portion of the premium charged for such member's or  
48 employee's individual coverage and seventy per cent of the additional  
49 cost of the form of coverage and such amount shall be credited to the  
50 total premiums owed by such employee or member of the General  
51 Assembly for the form of such member's or employee's coverage under  
52 such plan or plans. On and after January 1, 1989, the state shall pay for  
53 anyone receiving benefits from any such state-sponsored retirement  
54 system one hundred per cent of the portion of the premium charged

55 for such member's or employee's individual coverage and one  
 56 hundred per cent of any additional cost for the form of coverage. The  
 57 balance of any premiums payable by an individual employee or by a  
 58 member of the General Assembly for the form of coverage shall be  
 59 deducted from the payroll by the State Comptroller. The total  
 60 premiums payable shall be remitted by the Comptroller to the  
 61 insurance company or companies or nonprofit organization or  
 62 organizations providing the coverage. The amount of the state's  
 63 contribution per employee for a health maintenance organization  
 64 option shall be equal, in terms of dollars and cents, to the largest  
 65 amount of the contribution per employee paid for any other option  
 66 [which] that is available to all eligible state employees included in the  
 67 health benefits plan, but shall not be required to exceed the amount of  
 68 the health maintenance organization premium.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

**LAB**      *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*      APP  
**APP**      *Joint Favorable*